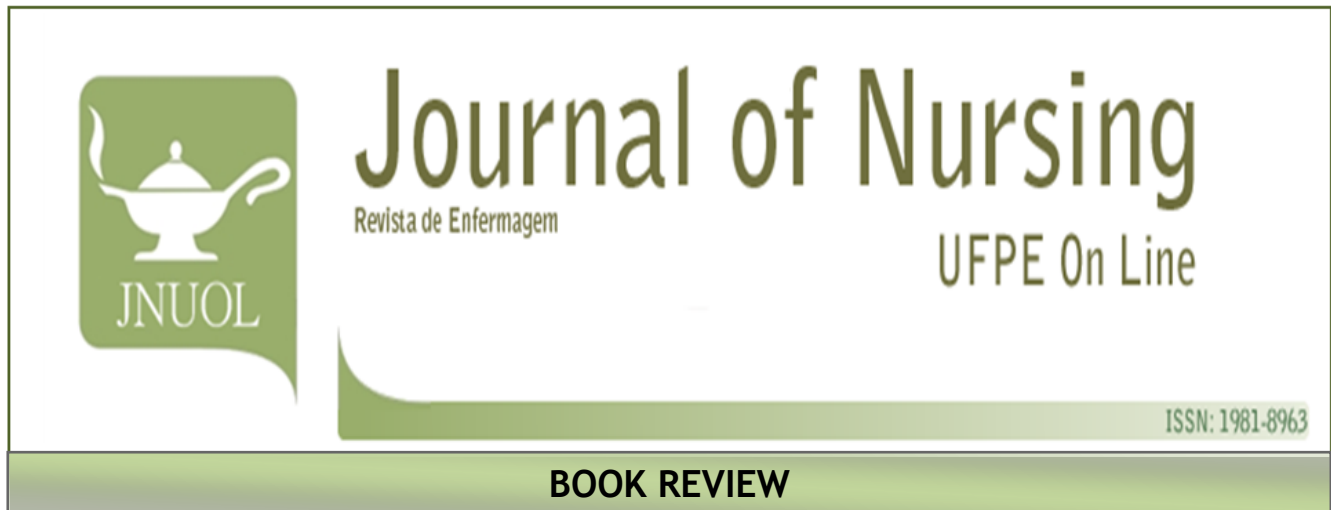




THE KNOWLEDGE OF NURSING AND ITS PRACTICAL DIMENSION

O SABER DE ENFERMAGEM E SUA DIMENSÃO PRÁTICA

EL SABER DE ENFERMERÍA Y SU DIMENSIÓN PRÁCTICA

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The book presented is a classic of Nursing literature, published by Cortez Publishers, in 1989, with 129 pages. Almeida and Rocha study Nursing as a social practice, addressing it in a critical-historical context about the knowledge of the profession, Nursing as work, professional development, student and technological. The Classic has a theoretical and practical approach of Nursing.

In the preface, there is a succinct approach about what will be contextualized in the book, according to the work of the authors. It is noteworthy that the authors contributed substantially to Nursing, pointing to the understanding of it as work, included in the social context, surrounded by labor relations, divisions of knowledge and power.

The Nursing knowledge is taken as a research object. The theory-practice relationship is the product of experience and professional development of the author. The book is one of the results of the author's doctoral thesis, an important work for Nursing, where it is discussed from a historical and social perspective.

The work is presented in three chapters, which are organized chronologically, contextualizing the past and the present of Nursing work. Generally, the textual language is objective. The author's proposal is to privilege the perspective of Nursing as a social practice, its relations with other instances of social structure, in order to apprehend its meaning and definition. This proposal is developed from the system of analysis of the work and its components, being agent, object, activity, instruments, aim. Now therefore, this system enhances not only internal

relations, as well as the external of professional practice.

The first chapter entitled "**First expressions of Nursing knowledge**" is an analysis of models of nursing practice from the point of view of history, as well as the construction of the object and its goals. Thus, nursing is understood as a profession that has activities that are geared towards a specific purpose. It is inserted in a social history context which is constantly influenced. And in this context that Nursing of the past, that independent from medical work is changing itself until nowadays, in which it was added to medical work, while maintaining the social division of labor in health care.

In the second chapter, "**The division of Nursing work**" addresses how Nursing was changing due to the expansion and diversification of its activities. The separation of the supervision and management of care for the nurse and the provision of health care to the nursing staff are up to the current days the division of Nursing work. This model is finally a fragment of the process of Nursing work, since there is a domain of knowledge by the nurse under her agents who constitute the labor force. Thus, the technical subdivision of nursing work is a consequence of their different skill levels, resulting from the way society is organized, the result of capitalism.

Already the third chapter "**Current Nursing Knowledge**" deals with the theories of nursing that nowadays are quite formal to how it organizes the nursing actions for the provision of care today. Although theories of nursing knowledge express the same, they are not geared to the social dimension, but to the scientific dimension, i.e. they are not

structured in the real context in which they are inserted. This is due to the lack of a self-analysis of the crisis of the profession, and therefore, do not find the solutions for the same. Such a crisis, to be resolved in fact, needs the awareness of nurses about what their profession means today, in what is their role in society, of what is the object of its work on health, which is their field.

The solutions are found in building a body of specific knowledge to nursing directly connected with the scientism of the profession, considering the political, economic and social structure in the country, the labor market of health care, the models of health assistance and its coverage, as well as the internal struggles of workers in the labor process. As for the significant role of the nurse in the field of primary health care, the actions must be directed to the work as a whole and not only in fragmented parts.

Finally, in the concluding remarks the authors claim to be the knowledge of Nursing the instruments used by it to carry out its work. The knowledge permeated the techniques, scientific principles and Nursing theories. The book closes with the characterization of nursing work by the division of tasks and procedures and the reaffirmation of the crisis of Brazilian Nursing justified by the removal of the nurse from her object of work by the management of services.

In short, the book allows the reader to reach the conclusion that Nursing is a profession that their agents must have a care based on education, ethics, sociology, philosophy, thus obtaining an understanding grounded in social relations, providing the human needs, being them individual or collective. Knowledge of Nursing comprises the means of work that may be concrete or abstract, i.e., it is both instrumental as by knowledge.

Overall, the work is another important classic that all Nursing professionals should know, especially those who are interested in critical thought under a practical approach. It is suggested the reading of the work for students of the undergraduate program in Nursing, assistant nurses and others interested in understanding and reflecting about critical thought in the Profession.

REFERENCE

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